



International Day of
People with Disability

Information Kit for Community Groups



International Day of People with Disability

3 December



International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations day, observed internationally each year on 3 December. In Australia, it is a day to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance of the 5.5 million people with disability in the country.

A key part of IDPwD each year are the events and activities that schools, workplaces and community groups hold to mark the day.

Community groups, like local sports clubs, neighbourhood associations or volunteer groups, play a vital role in creating a more inclusive and diverse community in Australia. This information kit has been developed to help community groups get involved.

Did you know?¹

- There are 5.5 million people with disability in Australia – that's 1 in 5 people
- 15% of people in Australia aged 0-64 years have disability
- 52% of people in Australia aged 65 years and over have disability
- 7.9% of all Australians have a profound or severe disability
- 9.9% or 1 in 10 people with disability in Australia have experienced discrimination.

For more information about disability statistics in Australia, please visit the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](#).

IDPwD theme

Each year, the United Nations announces a theme for IDPwD. The theme gives a focus for society to remove barriers for people with disability and become more inclusive.

The official theme for IDPwD 2024 will likely be announced in October or November on the [United Nations website](#). The [IDPwD website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) will also be updated when the theme is available.

While the United Nations IDPwD theme is a great conversation starter to talk about inclusion, you can also work with your community to develop your own theme.

¹ Source: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia survey 2022, Australian Bureau of Statistics www.abs.gov.au/disability



Ways your community can get involved

There are many ways your community can recognise IDPwD on 3 December and all year round. Regardless of how big or small your involvement is, we encourage you to get creative and mark IDPwD in your own unique way.

Host your own IDPwD event or activity

Holding events or activities are a great way to observe IDPwD and start inclusive conversations in your community.

We encourage you to register your community event, so we know about all the events happening across Australia. You have the option to keep your event private or register as a public event and be featured on our community event calendar. To find out more, visit the [Event Registrations page](#) on the IDPwD website.

Here are some ideas to get you started.

Learn about disability inclusion together

- Taking time to learn about disability inclusion is a simple but impactful way to connect with all members of your community.
- Check out our [Inclusion Resources page](#) for useful links like disability language and etiquette, and ways to host inclusive events and meetings.
- You can also encourage your community group to take part in disability awareness training together.

Film screening

- Host a screening of short films or videos that feature people with disability or disability themes.
- Check out our [IDPwD Ambassador videos](#) to learn about this year's Ambassadors and their stories.
- Visit the [Focus on Ability Short Film Festival website](#) to explore a diverse selection of short films. If you'd like to showcase their films at your event, you can send a request to admin@focusonability.com

Volunteering

- Get to know a local organisation that provides services and supports for people with disability and spend time volunteering with them.

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Community get together

- Host a morning tea or sausage sizzle for your community group to recognise IDPwD.
- Consider inviting a person with disability or a disability advocate from your local community to speak about their experiences.

Community awards

- Acknowledge the people in your community who are championing disability inclusion.
- This could include recognising the accomplishments of individuals, sporting clubs or local businesses who are leading the way in accessibility and inclusive practices.
- You can use the [editable IDPwD Certificate](#) or create your own template using the [IDPwD logo and branding](#).

Decorate your community

- Raise awareness of IDPwD by putting up posters and decorations in your local sports club, community hall or public notice boards.
- You can create your own IDPwD designs or use the [printable resources](#) on the IDPwD website.





Join the conversation

If you can't hold or attend an event, you can still get involved in IDPwD and help raise awareness in your community. Here are some ideas:

- Get your community together and support other IDPwD events in your local area or online. Check out our [community event calendar](#) for events happening near you.
- Post messages on your local community groups about IDPwD. Check out our [online promotion kit](#) for ideas to get you started.
- Learn more about IDPwD by [checking out our fact sheets](#), which are available in 12-languages other than English, Auslan and Easy Read.
- Promote IDPwD in your online meetings and emails using our [virtual meeting backgrounds](#) and [signature blocks](#).
- Follow or tag IDPwD on [Facebook \(@idpwd\)](#) and [Instagram \(@idpwd_au\)](#) to help spread stories about people with disability and be part of the community all year round.
- Publish an article or acknowledgement in your community newsletter about IDPwD (see template below).

International Day of People with Disability with [\[community group\]](#)

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations day observed on 3 December each year to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability.

There are 5.5 million people with disability in Australia – that's one in five people. By acknowledging this important day, we can take action and contribute to positive change in our community.

We play a key role in ensuring people with disability can participate in all aspects of community life.

This year [\[community group\]](#) will acknowledge IDPwD by [\[insert details of your event or activity\]](#).

We encourage everyone to get involved this IDPwD. Together we can challenge perceptions about disability, remove barriers, and promote inclusive and respectful attitudes and behaviours in our community.

For more information, go to [\[your website address\]](#) or contact [\[your phone number/email address\]](#). You can also visit our [\[Facebook page\]](#) for updates. For more information about IDPwD, visit idpwd.com.au

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More information

Visit idpwd.com.au to find out more and access stories, videos and resources.

If you have any questions, you can:

- email us at idpwd@dss.gov.au
- call us on 1800 440 385, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday AEST/AEDT.

TTY (Speak and Read) users can phone 1800 555 677 and ask to be connected to IDPwD at 1800 440 385.